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## More Than Just a Place to Live: A History of Raymond, Love, Heppner, and Piper Halls

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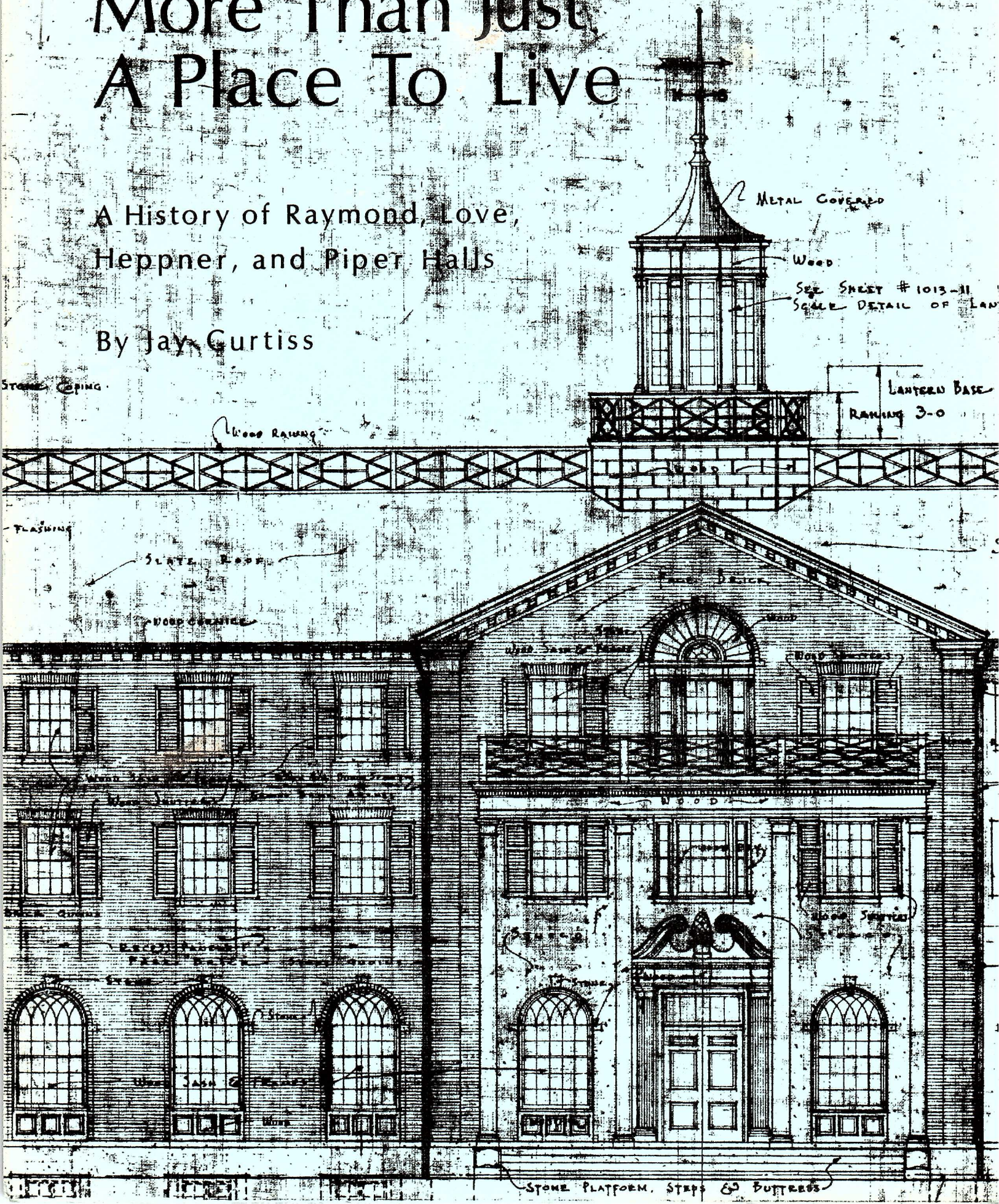
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By Jay Gurtiss

By Jay Curtiss





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Dedicated to all my Neihardt friends . . . .

## Preface

Fifty years ago, in the fall of 1932, Raymond Hall opened to students for the first time. To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of this event, I took it upon myself to compile a history of the buildings and to write biographies of the people after which those buildings are named.

When I began working on this little piece of nostalgia, I didn't realize how much work would be involved, and how long it would ultimately take. Now, nearly three years later, my work is complete, at least as far as I am willing to go.

Many people have asked me why I have spent so much of my time working on this, and why I started it in the first place. I have always enjoyed history, and living in Raymond Hall brought history close to me. While the history of world events is important, I think the history of your surroundings, of the common place, can be just as interesting, and can seem more alive.

I enjoyed my four years of living in Raymond Hall. I made many good friends there and did a lot of growing up as well. The place and the people will always be a part of me, a part of my history. I feel that one must always maintain a sense of the past in order to live in the present, and certainly before looking to the future. With the writing of this history I hope to give to Neihardt residents, past, present, and future, a small part of the past, and a basis on which to build the future.

Jay Curtiss  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
February, 1983

"A woman of exalted ideals and conduct.."

## CARRIE BELLE RAYMOND

Carrie Isabelle Rice was born in Spring Valley, New York, on July 12, 1857. Her family soon moved to Iowa, and it was in the Mid-West that her lifelong affair with music began. By the age of 10 she was playing the cabinet organ in church, and at 14 she began to master the pipe organ.

As a young woman, Carrie Belle's musical training continued in Chicago, under the teaching of a Professor Tomlins, and in New York with the guidance of Professor Lasar, a piano and organ instructor in Brooklyn.

Miss Rice's training and talents next led her to Washington D.C., where she was a music teacher and organist. From there it was quite a transition to Fargo, North Dakota, where she taught music and was in charge of the local music club.

In 1877 she met and married Mr. P.V.M. Raymond, and the newly married couple set up housekeeping in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Lincoln music scene was never the same from that time. Though at first Carrie Belle only sang in the city May Festivals, she soon took a more active role in the community. In 1884 she organized the community chorus whose first performance was Handel's "Messiah". In years to come the group presented such masterpieces as "Judás Maccabeas" by Handel, "Creation" and "Spring" by Haydn, and "Elijah" and "Lodgesant" by Mendelssohn.

By this time Mrs. Raymond was gaining a reputation as an accomplished teacher and musician. A comment in the Lincoln paper of that time sums it up: "Usually a teacher drilled and prepared a chorus, than handed the baton to an imported director. But in May, 1891, at the insistence of the 150 members of her chorus, she took over the duty of conducting Haydn's "Creation" and Gode's "Crusaders". Undoubtedly the first instance in the history of music where a woman filled that position in the rendition of an oratorio."

In July, 1892, Mrs. Raymond became director of music for the Crete, Nebraska, Chautauqua Assembly, where for several summers she directed concerts that were successful and popular.

In 1894 she joined the University of Nebraska faculty as director of the University Chorus, and remained on the faculty for 33 years, until her death in 1927. During her tenure the Chorus grew to nearly 300 voices. In 1902 she also began a tradition of performing "Messiah" at Christmastime, a tradition which lasted for 25 years.

Another responsibility of the Chorus was to give Friday morning convocations, including the performance of Folk songs, studies of symphonies, and other forms of musical entertainment. This practice continued until the beginning of World War I.

Mrs. Raymond was instrumental in bringing orchestras of national reputation to Lincoln, including the Minneapolis, New York and Chicago symphonies. "Faust", Verdi's "Requiem" and "Elijah" were presented by such groups, with prominent soloists in the lead roles and students singing in the chorus. By 1926, students filled all of the parts.

While at the University, Mrs. Raymond was appointed to various posts: organist and choirleader (1903), Director of Music (1907) and Director of Vocal Ensemble (1926).

In addition to her duties with the University, Mrs. Raymond remained very active in the Lincoln community. She was a member of the Altrusa Club, Kappa Delta sorority, a patroness of Mu Phi Epsilon and Delta Omicron, an honorary member of the International Musician's Association, and a Charter member of the Matinee Musicale and its program for 30 years.

She also was Director of music and organist of the First Congregational Church of Lincoln for over 40 years. When the First Congregational and Plymouth Churches consolidated to form the First Plymouth Congregational Church, she continued as organist. As a memorial to her services the church collected money in her name for a carillon which was dedicated on May 27, 1928. It is installed in the bell tower of the First Plymouth Church at 20th and "D" Streets, and can be heard every Sunday and on special occasions.

In 1924, the Lincoln Kiwanis Club presented her the Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to the City of Lincoln, the University, and the State. In the presentation, Mrs. Raymond was declared "typical of the ideal woman of the West" by Ernest C. Folsom, a Lincoln businessman.

Many praised Mrs. Raymond. My grandmother, Ferne Omen Gorst (class of '20) had the privilege of being one of her students. She remembered Mrs. Raymond as being energetic, even at age 70. Although small in stature (Mrs. Raymond stood less than five feet tall) she had a forceful personality and as a teacher she was a friend to her students, but also maintained a distance that commanded respect.

Chancellor John Selleck, at the presentation of Mrs. Raymond's portrait to the Residence Hall that bears her name, said this about her:

"Mrs. Raymond began her work in Lincoln in modesty. As the years went on, the public learned to appreciate her as an artist of quality. Besides being

a powerful influence in the University, Mrs. Raymond was well known in the entire city for her musical work. Her capacity for arranging an orchestra score for whatever instruments were at hand was regarded as uncanny by visiting musicians in its skill and musical comprehension. Great as an artist, she was greater as a personality. A woman of exalted ideas and conduct, of great personal valor and charm."

Carrie Belle Raymond died of heart disease shortly before noon on Monday, October 3, 1927, at Lincoln General Hospital after a two-month illness. At the time of her death she resided at 1527 "L" Street.

The following is the address read at Mrs. Raymond's funeral:

"By choice this service today is one of simplicity. The life we remember was beautifully simple; therefore in this hour of fragrant memory and tender solemnity it behooves us to make our words conform to the quiet and friendly character of her life.

For forty odd years her influence upon Lincoln, our University and Commonwealth has increased with the flow of generations. In those decades new faces with interests and ideas vastly different than those of our pioneer forbears have arisen. Many ancient customs and ideals went down in the change. But surviving all change she continued the idol and friend alike of the young as well as of the old. Each generation of youth declared: "She belongs to us." And today all have a possessive feeling of proprietorship in her life.

The University of Nebraska says: "she belongs to us." And their claims are valid when reviewed in the light of events, for she began her career with them in 1894, thirty-three years ago under Chancellor Canfield. She organized the University Chorus and established the important annual custom of adequately interpreting the great oratorios. If "music is man's Parnassus" as Emerson once said then she has guided countless numbers to walk on Holy heights and worship thru Handel's "Messiah", "The Creation", "Elijah", "St. Paul" and kindred works. As director of music the richness of her personality and varied talents overflowed into each generation of students and the graduates of the University carried far and wide with them the gracious charm and disciplined tastes of a great teacher.

The City of Lincoln has likewise a proud sense of ownership in her life. In no provincial sense did she live her life alone. Her ministry was a philanthropy embracing all mankind. She was as generous as her art was universal. The windows of her heart were always open and the music that filled her home was heard on the streets of the city.

The String Quartet organized eighteen years ago came out of that creative instinct to lift the levels of community musical ideals. This and similar civic societies born of her energy were inspired to contribute to and labor for the enlargement and inspiration of the divine spirit in man. It was, therefore, an expression of city and state esteem for her rich and influential service that lead the Kiwanis Club of Lincoln to bestow upon her in 1923, "The Kiwanis medal for distinguished service." On the occasion and presentation of this medal the following words were spoken:

"A city can hope to take a leading place among the cities of any country only when its spiritual and art aspects of life are highly developed. It is because of its character that Athens is remembered and Sparta forgotten.

Such is the power of the spirit that a very modest woman, without wealth and seeking nothing for herself, but with 'her heart filled with such melodies that their echo is a blessing and benediction to us' has been able through many years of service to make a priceless contribution to her home city."

In a fine and holy sense she belongs to the Church. Here was she convincingly sincere and at home. It was First Church that discovered and brought her to Lincoln. As our organist for over forty years she has consecrated her talents and spirit to the service of Her God. Neither has this been a professional service alone but rather a perfect and full expression of sincere reverence and a humble Christian life. "True hearted, whole hearted, faithful and loyal" has been that outpouring of herself through these years.

Said Jesus once to His disciples: "By this shall men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love for one another." And this woman under the spell of that perfect life through that long ministry to the soul of man at her organ did something greater, she conducted also another and nobler ministry in the discordant souls of men as a messenger of perpetual good will and love. Some lives are borne to tranquil circumstances. Peace is thrust upon them but they do not achieve greatness. And then there are those borne amid opposite facts. Heroically and with majestic calmness they serenely ride out with Christian spirit and assurance the storms of life.

Her physician once said, "When Mrs. Raymond dies; it will be just as she lived, with a smile on her face." Victorious we bear away her body to its last resting place."

It is clear that Mrs. Raymond gave selflessly to others and did not mind the hard work of her career, and, although it is not stated anywhere, she probably enjoyed every moment. We would do well to emulate this woman, and I think it is fitting that her name be remembered in the warmth and beauty of Carrie Belle Raymond Hall.



"It is certain that she was a woman of high calibre."

#### JULIA LARRABEE LOVE

The following is a verbatim excerpt from the 1932 'Nebraskana', a publication of biographical sketches of Nebraska men and woman of achievement:

Don Lothrop Love, lawyer and banker at Lincoln, Nebraska, was born at Jonesville, Wisconsin, March 7, 1863. His father, Horace Love, who was a farmer, was born in Chautauqua County, New York, January 26, 1820, and died in Calhoun County, Ohio, October 27, 1880; his ancestry was English and Scotch. His mother, whose ancestors were English and Scotch, was born in Cayuga County, New York, October 10, 1824, and died at Malvern, Iowa, March 3, 1910.

Mr. Love was graduated from Centennial Academy at Malvern, and received the A.B. degree at the State University of Iowa, where he held membership in Delta Tau Delta. He was engaged in the practice of law from 1888 to 1916, was vice president of the Lincoln National Bank, was treasurer of the Lincoln Joint Stock Land Bank, and served as president of the Lincoln Liberty Life Insurance Company.

He has been distinguished in public affairs for many years and had held a prominent place in Republican political activities in state, community and national duties. Among the offices he has filled are: acting county judge, 1896; mayor of Lincoln, 1909-1910; delegate at large to the Republic National Convention, 1910, 1916, 1920; committee on resolutions, 1920; member Republican State Committee, 1912; and mayor of the city of Lincoln, since 1929.

Mr. Love is treasurer of the Lincoln Joint Stock Land Bank, is president of the Lincoln Liberty Life Insurance Company, and holds membership in various civic organizations at Lincoln. He served as president of the local school board, 1907-08, was president of the Nebraska Art Association, 1910-12, and is serving as a member of the board of directors of the latter at the present time. He was president of the Nebraska State Historical Society from 1919 to 1921 and since 1921 had been a director in that organization. He held membership in the Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross, Kiwanis Club, and the Nebraskana Society. He is a 32nd degree Maron.

Mr. Love's social clubs include: University Club; Lincoln Country Club; The Club; Candlelight Club; and Laymen's Club. His favorite recreation is golfing, while his hobby is reading. During the World War (I) he served as chairman of the draft board at Lincoln, 1917-18.

His marriage to Julia Larrabee was solemnized at Clermont, Fayette County, Iowa, August 20, 1890. Mrs. Love, who is the daughter of Governor William Larrabee of Iowa, was born at Clermont, January 3, 1867. Residence: Lincoln.

Now, it is a well known fact that Love Hall is the namesake of Julie Larrabee Love, not her husband, Don Love. His biography, however, was the only source in which I could find mention of Julia Love and contained the only available information about her, other than the fact that the residence hall was named for her.

Mr. Love was a prominent and active man in the Lincoln community. In addition he was a benefactor of Union College and UNL. He gave a gift of \$7000 to Union College toward the construction of Love Industrial Building, and \$8000 for a later addition to the same building.

To the University of Nebraska, his gifts included \$45,000 to construct Don L. Love Memorial Hall on East Campus, and, of course, a contribution toward Julia Larrabee Love Hall on City Campus. His gift of \$55,000 paid the University's share of construction costs, with the balance met by federal funds. This gift was made in memory of his beloved wife who had passed away in 1937.

It is unfortunate that Mr. Love's accomplishments seem to have overshadowed his wife, though it is certain that she was a woman of high calibre. It is possible that another researcher could find more information than that which I was able to uncover.

Don L. Love died Thursday, September 12, 1940. His residence was listed as 1953 "B" Street. For the avid historian, or the curious tourist, it might be interesting to pass the address of a notable former resident.

"She never sacrificed the truth as she saw it ..."

#### AMANDA HENRIETTA HEPPNER

Amanda Henrietta Heppner was born July 3, 1873, in Lincoln, Nebraska. A Nebraska native through and through, she graduated from Lincoln High School in 1889. That same year she enrolled at the Univeristy of Nebraska-Lincoln.

As an undergraduate, Miss Heppner became intensely interested in Sanskrit, a Hindoo (not my spelling) language older than Greek, and finally majored in that subject. She was also an excellent student of German and other modern languages; she received her B.A. in 1894 with a major in Sanskrit and a minor in modern languages.

Upon graduation, she began teaching German in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literature under the direction of Professor Fossler. She also held a scholarship for graduate work in Sanskrit, and began work toward her master's degree under the guidance of Dr. Edgren, Dean of the Graduate School. She was granted her A.M. degree in 1896, after having completed a thesis on the subject of the adjective in the Sansdrit language.

Miss Heppner then studied philosophy and literature for one and a half years at the Sorbonne, and College de France, in Paris, and at Berlin University in Berlin.

After returning from Europe she again taught German at the University. In 1901 she was made an instructor in Germanic languages, and in 1909 became an assistant professor of German. She remained in that position until her appointment as acting dean of women in 1917.

During this period from 1909 to 1917, Miss Heppner became involved in other activities besides her teaching. She was director and coach of the German Dramatic Club, which produced a play each year with students from the German Department. Also, in the years 1911 to 1914, she directed summer tours to Europe for University women and graduates.

In 1917 Miss Heppner was appointed acting dean of women to replace Mrs. Mary Catherine Hiltner. The following year she was appointed Dean of Women, a position she held for nearly 21 years until her retirement in February of 1939.

During her tenure as Dean, she made many improvements, reforms and changes in life for women enrolled at the University. During a visit to the University of Colorado in Boulder in 1919, for example, she took note of the successful Big Sisters program in operation there. When she returned to Lincoln, she started a similar program which grew steadily. This program, which came to be known as Coed Counselors, helped thousands of first year women to feel at home on the campus.

Another change Miss Heppner made was in women's government on campus. When Miss Heppner became Dean in 1918, the Girls' Club was purely a social organization. The membership soon voted to form the Women's Self Government Association (W.S.G.A.) which later became the Associated Women Students. From the W.S.G.A. evolved a board of 14 women students, chosen by popular vote, which made and enforced rules for women students.

This change relieved Miss Heppner's office of the task of dealing with rules violations and created more time for she and her staff to become involved in personal counseling for the students.

In 1916, the women's organizations were headquartered in the Temple Building and Art Hall, but when the U.S. entered World War I those buildings were taken to be used as training quarters. Realizing the need for facilities to accomodate the women's activities, Miss Heppner began searching for a more permanent site. When the University purchased a former residence at 14th and "R" Streets, she arranged for it to be used as the new women's building. The building, which was named for Miss Ellen Smith, a longtime registrar for the University, is no longer standing. It stood directly south of the Administration Building, on the north side of "R" Street. According to my research, the beautiful Victorian-style mansion was demolished because it was "in the way" of the Administration Building, although it was torn down after construction of the Administration Building was completed.

Miss Heppner was also concerned about where the women students lived. In 1920, as acceptable housing became scarce, six former residences were purchased for use as dormitories, and were organized and furnished under her direction. Soon these too were inadequate, and Carrie Belle Raymond Hall was built in accordance with a carefully constructed plan. Miss Heppner was an active and influential member of the dormitory committee.

The 1929 stock market crash and subsequent Depression forced many women to leave college. In an effort to help some of these women Miss Heppner organized a cooperative house where 16 women shared duties under the direction of a chaperone. This allowed the women to live for less cost than otherwise possible. A second cooperative for women was later organized.

Miss Heppner was involved in a number of clubs and organizations. She was affiliated with Chi Omega sorority and was a member of their national committee. She was chosen for membership in Alpha Lambda Delta, freshman scholastic honorary, and in Phi Chi Theta, business administration sorority. She was also a member of Mortar Board, National Association of Deans of Women, American Association of University women, the National Education Association, Modern Language Association,



Women's Educational Club, and the National Association of Altrusa Clubs.

In 1925 she was president of the National Association of Altrusa Clubs, and in 1924 and 1925 she also served as president of the first district Women's Education Club. She was a member of the national committee of the Association of Deans of Women, and organizer and president of the Nebraska State Association of Deans in 1927 and 1928. She also wrote numerous articles for educational, fraternity, and modern language journals.

Miss Heppner always had her door open for the women of the University and was admired and respected for her sound, fair advice. Those who know her made these comments:

"Her advice was always wise and unwaveringly honest. She never sacrificed the truth as she saw it to court favor or popularity."

"She stood firmly for the rights and privileges of women students ..."

"She was a wise counselor, not only to all women students and women's groups, but to the men's organizations as well."

"Singly, or in groups, both men and women students came to her for advice on practically any problem that might arise with their college work or play."

Elsie Piper said this about her:

"She possessed excellent judgment and after studying carefully the cases which came before her, formed an unbiased opinion. Having once reached a decision she was fearless in upholding it. I have seen her besieged and threatened by students, organizations, and by businessmen, but no fear caused her to retreat."

Miss Heppner was well known and often interviewed. Quotes from these interviews give additional insight into her views and into the concerns of that era.

"I am the receptacle into which the girls may pour their troubles, just as they would go to a member of their own family."

"The women's organizations are composed of both Greek letter girls and those who are not members, but no one can possibly tell one from the other or notice any difference in the treatment or conduct of these girls."

When asked what she believed girls should get out of college she answered:

"Above all, college should make a girl open minded. Most girls who have really gotten the most from their schooling come out of college with a great spirit of humility. You learn you know so little."

What about leadership among the women?

"I believe in self-government. We are dealing with mature women, not kindergartners."

"We have fine leadership among the college women. I only wish we had more. We need more of that genuine leadership which means you are going to stand by the highest ideals no matter what. There would be more outstanding work if the decisions of college girls were not too often colored by their social standing. They are too often afraid that a certain line of action will queer them socially or deprive them of dates."

Miss Heppner lived at 2724 Bradfield Drive when she passed away on November 6, 1948.

"Miss Piper was very concerned about the women..."

#### ELSIE FORD PIPER

Little information is available about Elsie Ford Piper's early years. Her parents were pioneer residents of Alma, Harlan County, Nebraska. Miss Piper graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1904, presumably with a degree in education. After graduation she became school principal in Stanton, Nebraska.

In 1907 Miss Piper was appointed head of the Latin department at Hastings High School. In 1909 she spent a year as principal at Ashland High School. From 1910 to 1917 she served as head of the Latin department at Wayne State Teachers' College. After a year of study at Stanford University, she resumed duty in the Latin department at Wayne State and also served as Dean of Women until 1925.

In 1925 Miss Piper joined the University of Nebraska staff as assistant Dean of Women. Although at the time there were 2600 women enrolled at the University, the only accommodations were about 150 spaces in a small frame dormitory and three former residences on the north side of "R" street between 12th and 13th Streets. Other women lived in privately owned rooming houses near campus, or in private homes or sororities located away from campus. Only one sorority was then located on campus.

During the next twenty-five years, Miss Piper, as assistant Dean, was a contributing influence in the numerous changes made in housing available for women. She helped to establish the first residence for foreign women students, located in what was, until recently, the Alumni House. Like Ellen Smith Hall, the first International House building has fallen under the wrecking ball, and a bit of beauty and heritage lost in the name of progress.

Miss Piper was active in the plans to build the first residence halls. At the time of her retirement in 1950, Raymond, Love, Heppner and Love Memorial Halls had all been completed. She was a major impetus in several new residence hall programs: cooperative housing for women, and the first assignment system to match first-year women with roommates with similar interests and backgrounds.

During her twenty-five years at the University, Miss Piper served two one-year terms as acting Dean of Women, in 1931 and again in 1938. She was twice elected to the presidency of the Nebraska Association of Deans of Women. In 1942 she was cited at the convention of the National Association of Deans of Women for twenty-five years of outstanding service in student personnel and housing.

She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, P.E.O., Alpha Omicron Pi, Alpha Lambda Delta, Mortar Board, the American Association of University women, and the Y.W.C.A.

Miss Piper was very concerned about the women at Nebraska. "I want every girl to have pleasant and suitable living quarters and to live in a healthful environment," she once said, "and I hope someday we will have a dormitory room for every girl who desires one." With few exceptions her dream is now a reality.

## JOHN GNEISENAU NEIHARDT

John Gneisenau Neihardt was born January 8, 1881, on a rented farm near Sharpsburg, Illinois. Shortly after his birth his family moved to Springfield, Illinois, and in 1886 to Stockton, Kansas, in the northwest part of that state. In 1888 the family moved to Kansas City where John's father, Nicholas, passed away; in 1892 his mother, Alice, and the three children again moved, this time to Wayne, Nebraska.

About this time, John Neihardt became interested in classic literature. At the age of 13 he enrolled at the Nebraska Normal School in Wayne, later to become Wayne State College; in 1896 he completed the teacher's course and in 1897 the science course at that institution.

During this time Neihardt studied Latin as much as five hours a day and learned Greek on his own so that he could read the classics in their original languages. This gave him valuable lessons in the writing styles of the old masters.

Following school Neihardt taught for a year at Hoskins, Nebraska, then spent a year variously employed and unemployed in Missouri, and finally returned for a second year of teaching at Hoskins.

In 1900 Neihardt joined his family in Bancroft, Nebraska, where he worked at odd jobs and at writing occasionally having the opportunity to publish some of his work. Eventually he found employment as secretary to a trader who operated on the Omaha Indian Reservation near Bancroft. It was while working there that he became interested in the culture and the folklore of the plains Indians.

In 1905, with the help of some friends, he purchased the local newspaper, the Bancroft Blade, and became its editor. He held this post until 1907, when he sold his share to devote his time entirely to his writing.

Neihardt's work was receiving more attention in literary circles. Beginning in 1908 his name appears in "Who's Who in America". About this time, he also met his future wife, a sculptress living in New York, after an exchange of correspondence about his work.

After 1911 Neihardt devoted his time primarily to the writing of poetry, especially his "Epic Cycle of the West", five long narrative poems written in the style of the ancient classic epics. Finished in 1949, the "Cycle" deals with the period of history from 1822 to the massacre at Wounded Knee in 1890.

Neihardt was noted as a poet, philosopher, historian and Indian scholar. His honors include:

1917 First civilian member of The Order of the Indian Wars of the United States, Washington, D.C.

1929 Neihardt Hall, Wayne State College, Wayne, Nebraska



- 1936 Awarded gold scroll medal of honor as Foremost Poet of the Nation for "The Song of the Messiah" by National Poetry Center, Rockefeller Center, New York.
- 1943 Member, National Institute of Arts and Letters, New York, N.Y.
- 1953 "A Cycle of the West" chosen one of the World's Best Books From Homer to Hemingway (a span of 3,000 years).
- 1959 A Chancellor, Academy of American Poets, New York, 1959-1967
- 1959 Fellow, International Institute of Arts and Letters, Lindau, Germany.
- 1967 Governor's Award - Nebraska's Poet of the Century
- 1968 The Thomas Jefferson Award for 1968, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.
- 1968 Golden Laurel Wreath presented by President of the Republic of the Philippines, Ferdinand E. Marcos
- 1969 Hall of Fame - Wisdom Society of Wisdom Magazine and Encyclopedia, listed in Who's Who in America since 1908, International Who's Who since 1952.

Books by Neihardt include "The Divine Enchantment"; "A Bundle of Myrrh"; "The River and I"; "A Cycle of the West" which includes "The Song of the Indian Wars", and "The Song of the Messiah"; "Black Elk Speaks" which has been translated into five languages; "When the Tree Flowered"; "The Splendid Wayfaring"; and "Lyric and Dramatic Poems" and the first volume of his autobiography "All is But a Beginning".

Neihardt moved to Branson, Missouri, in 1921, shortly before receiving the Poet Laureate award, and lived there until his death in late 1973.

The Omaha Indians called him Tae-Nug-Zhing, or "Little Bull Buffalo", because he had a large head, broad shoulders, narrow hips and lots of hair. But a more fitting description of this energetic and brilliant man came from the Sioux, "Flaming Rainbow"; his colorful stories of the Indians and the Old West are timeless.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOUSING BEFORE RAYMOND HALL

Before the early 1920s on-campus housing was limited to perhaps one sorority; both men and women students lived either in rooming houses and private homes or fraternities and sororities which were all located off-campus. Housing selection was limited, particularly for women, and certain rules were to be followed:

The residence of men and women in the same lodging house (as distinguished from families) is not permitted unless the circumstances are unusual. In this case, permission must be granted by the Dean of Women of the University.

A landlady rooming students is expected to provide for their use until 10:30 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings, or on two of these evenings, a reception room on the first floor properly warmed and lighted.

Women students in these houses will receive gentlemen callers only on the evenings named, and only in the reception room. Young ladies will not be received in men's lodging houses or fraternity houses unchaperoned.

Another housing alternative for women at this time was the University Women's Building, formerly the Grand Hotel. It was owned and managed by the University Women's Building Company. This company was not associated with the University, but its purpose was endorsed by the Chancellors and faculty. The rooms seemed relatively inexpensive (\$6 to \$24 per month, depending on size and capacity). Located on the northwest corner of 12th and "Q" Streets, the proximity to campus was ideal for that time. The site is now a University parking lot.

As previously mentioned, several private residences on the north side of "R" Street between 12th and 13th Streets were acquired to house women. These might be considered the first University-owned, on-campus housing, but they were not specifically built to house students. These, too, were soon inadequate as the population of women students increased. It became evident that a better situation was needed.

During the 15 years preceeding the construction of Carrie Bell Raymond Hall, the housing crisis had become acute. Campus expansion, including the purchase of land for classroom buildings, had seriously limited the number of nearby boarding houses. Greek organizations had acquired and/or replaced many other desirable houses, and expansion of the Lincoln business district toward campus had eliminated off-campus housing south of the University. The University administration, including Amanda Heppner, Elsie Piper, and Chancellor E.A. Burnett, decided it was time to make improvements that had become necessary in the housing situation for women. Raymond Hall was soon to become a reality.

The stated purposes for construction of the first dormitory were many and varied:

"To provide a conducive atmosphere to study, for personal growth, and to prevent waste of time and money."

"Without a system of residence halls there is a lack of control of the mass of the student body. In a way, residence halls are more important than classrooms."

"To provide suitable living quarters for hundreds of University women who now live in rooming houses or with private families."

"This residence hall provides living and social conditions for all women students on a par with those facilities formerly restricted to members of Greek letter organizations."

Raymond Hall was financed and constructed by the University of Nebraska Dormitory Corporation, a non-profit corporation organized under Nebraska state law and governed by officers of the university. A portion of the cost was met by a state appropriation, with the balance obtained by bond issue. The bonds were retired using income from dormitory revenue; as soon as the bonds were paid, title was transferred to the University, who had operated it under lease until that time.

## RAYMOND HALL 1930-39

The following is taken from the first bulletin published by the University about Raymond Hall:

"In 1932-33 the University will have available for the first time the happy and congenial surroundings of a reasonably priced, attractively furnished, and well governed residence hall, supervised by a cultured director, who is qualified by ability and training to assist young women in reaching their highest ideals in education. This hall will safeguard their mental and physical health, their scholarship, and assist them in developing qualities of leadership. The University can maintain such standards as are conducive to finer living, better social life, and more successful adjustments to college requirements."

And you thought it was just another place to live!

The land upon which Raymond Hall sits has had many previous owners, at least fifteen, including at one time the Sigma Chi Building Company. The lot is located in the Samuel W. Little subdivision, and at one time probably contained two or three private residences. It was acquired by the University on October 31, 1929.

Construction of Raymond Hall began in 1931 and was finished in the summer of 1932, in time for the building to be occupied during the fall term. Total cost of construction was approximately \$269,000.

Even during construction the new dormitory was making news. On April 13, 1932, the hall was officially named for Mrs. Raymond. Even more interesting, however, was the ensuing discussion in The Daily Nebraskan about its "standing" on campus.

In a May 10 interview, twelve sorority presidents were asked what, if any, competition would arise between the dormitory and the sororities. Eleven of the twelve considered the dormitory a good idea, didn't see much possible competition, and were glad for the new social benefits available for non-sorority girls. In contrast, the May 22nd editorial considered another, related problem:

"There is one great question in the social aspect of this dormitory. Perhaps to many it is trivial, but to the girls who will live in the hall, the question will have great significance. Will the fraternity men upon the campus date the girls in the dormitory? The easiest way of answering this question is by evading it and declaring that it makes no difference anyway. But sane observation will show that is does. Fraternity men have always had an exaggerated sense of their own importance and with characteristic snobbery may refuse to date the girls in the dormitory because the dormitory has no rating. One thing is certain, the girls in the dormitory will be the same kind as those in the sororities and fraternity men would do well to forget their high hats and be fair."

Of course the problem never materialized.



Chancellor Burnett was obviously pleased with the new building.

"Altogether this residence hall was a much needed project, and it has been planned carefully so that it will be one of the finest buildings of its kind on any university campus. The University of Nebraska should be proud of it."

In the fall of 1932, the first residents moved in, with the formal opening ceremony taking place on October 8, 1932.

Raymond Hall, along with most of the other dormitories on the University campus, was designed by the architectural firm of Wilson and Davis. Although its capacity was only 170 women, the intention was to later build two wings each to the north and south, bringing the capacity to about 600. Since this expansion would have required a larger dining room, this was also planned. Rooms 101 to 109 on first floor Raymond are different from other rooms in the hall. The extended dining room would have occupied the space taken by these rooms; the walls were strictly temporary and have been temporary for 50 years.

## RAYMOND - THE THIRTIES

When Raymond Hall first opened in the fall of 1932 its appearance was much the same as it is today - which is a tribute to the care it has received through the years - but the purposes and uses of its rooms were indicative of another era of university life.

To begin at the bottom, the multi-purpose room in the basement was called the recroom. Measuring 41 by 32 feet, it was intended for everything from ping-pong to dancing. The dancing, incidentally, was always chaperoned, and allowed only during set times. (More about that later.)

The laundry facilities were in the same room where they are now, but fold-down ironing boards and electric irons were provided. Shampooing and hair drying rooms were included in order to spare room furnishings possible water damage.

Off the hallway that leads to the Pub were, and still are today, the men's and women's cloakrooms, although one of these today serves as the staff lounge. The Pub was a party/assembly/ballroom measuring 76 by 40 feet, with a serving room at the south end, and the stage at the north end as it is today. The rest of the basement contained kitchen storage, trunkrooms, employee locker rooms, and mechanical equipment.

On the first floor, what are now the Raymond TV lounge and the adjoining Pumpkin room were originally the dining area. The flooring is solid oak, as is in the individual rooms. The tables and chairs used in the '30s dining area are still in use in the south dining room of the food service building.

The kitchen was located across the hall from this dining area, in rooms which now house home ec classes. The serving line filed along the south wall of the hallway. This kitchen's reputation was far-reaching, according to the 1938 bulletin.

The Raymond hall cuisine is undoubtedly one of the most famous things about the University, ranking second to the collections of mastadons in Morrill Hall only because of the latter's seniority. Under deft diatetic supervision, dorm girls have their essential vitamins and favorite dishes too, all attractively and efficiently served. What's more, the menus are always in line with the moods of the weatherman. And, as a university institution, Raymond Hall may utilize the delicious dairy products and meats of the Agricultural College to a degree not possible in a private boarding house.

Although it would be interesting to sample one of these famous meals, the recipes used by that cooking staff have probably been lost through the years. Only pieces of the original china still exist as a memento of that cuisine.

The Knotty Pine Room appears now much as it did in 1932; most of the furniture is the same, and the style of carpeting has been guarded through necessary replacements. In the '30s, however, the piano was located here, rather than in the Gold lounge where it sits today. The Christmas tree was also placed in this room during the holiday season.

The Blue and Gold lounges originally had soft gray-green carpet and draperies of printed linen copied from an 18th century design; the walls were either white or soft pastel. Many of the original furnishings, now reupholstered, remain today. The fireplace fittings and lamps in these rooms, as well as many lighting fixtures throughout the building, are made of genuine English brass.

The library, also known as the Blue room, was decorated with green brocade draperies and Adam-figured carpeting (look it up). The former library and the matron's apartment are now all part of the Residence Director's apartment, undoubtedly the most unique apartment of its kind on campus.

Across the hall, in what is now the Residence Director's office, was the Red room, decorated with gray-green carpeting and bright chintz draperies. It was described as "a small and very popular affair that is considered an ideal trysting spot for best boyfriends."

The front desk and adjoining area was smaller than it is today. Part of the office was a men's restroom, which is still there. Then as now, "groups gathered around the desk talking and getting mail." There is even reference to the "Smiling phone, mail, message, and information girl." Desk workers today are of both sexes, but they're still smiling. The lobby area has remained much the same, though the ceiling was not always covered with acoustical tiles. The large, high lobby is quieter now, but not as lovely as it once was.

The Sun room was not originally enclosed, except for the iron grills. It was a nice place to relax on warm, sunny days, hence the Sun room. At the other end of the hall, to the south, the Orange lounge was then a drive-thru canopy. The four roofs at each corner of the building were used as porches for sun bathing and relaxing.

Outside, in the courtyard, were located "umbrella-topped tables and gaudy deck chairs" on a well-kept yard. On the east side of the building was a lovely garden with many seasonal flowers. "The double row of tulips marching up to the entrance (were) a thing of beauty every spring." Also located southeast of the building were four clay tennis courts, the "happy hunting ground of super-players."

Individual rooms have probably changed less than any other part of the building since 1932. The floors are still concrete covered with oak. Sinks are still a part of each room and many of the beds are original equipment. Here are several descriptions of the rooms from bulletins:

1932

Each room has a lavatory with hot and cold water, clothes closet so constructed as to permit privacy for each occupant, two single beds, comfortable chairs, study tables and other fixtures. Rugs and curtains are furnished. Each student supplies linen, blankets, couch covers, dresser scarfs, towels, pictures and other personal necessities.

1937

The bedrooms have pretty maple twin beds, twin chests, and a roomy double desk. Each room has a spacious closet, and a tiled lavatory alcove - luxury of luxuries. Further thoughtful details include Yale locks on every bedroom door, an efficient phone and buzzer system, and four flawless full-length mirrors, two on each floor.

Incidentally, only three of these mirrors are still there. The other was accidentally broken by a former roommate of mine, who shall remain nameless.

What are now the Students Assistants' rooms used to be parlors for the use of the floor residents. Included in each parlor, in addition to comfortable furniture, was a set of encyclopedias, a dictionary, and off to the side, a kitchenette with dishes, gas stove, sink, iron and ironing board, all provided for student use.

There is one suite of rooms on Raymond two, two small rooms connected by an interior door plus a bathroom containing a bathtub, toilet and sink. During the mid-thirties, Phylis Bently, a noted English novelist, stayed in this suite during her visit to the University.

There is also mention of Otis, the beloved elevator.

"It's fun and convenient to use the self-operating elevator, although the stalwart souls skip lightly up the beautiful circular staircase."

The room rates for the first year were low compared to today. A double room was \$60 per semester and a single cost \$100 per semester. Board was \$26 per month. Do you suppose, for the sake of nostalgia, that the housing office might try these prices again for a semester?



## HALL GOVERNMENT - 1930-1939

The Raymond Hall government of the thirties consisted of two proctors, elected from the floors, and a council of eleven that met weekly with the social director. This group was responsible for the many activities which took place in the residence hall. A drama committee produced skits and one-act plays; a music committee organized a chorus and produced operettas; and an athletic committee directed involvement in intramural activities - tennis against the sorority teams in warm weather and ping-pong and "setting-up exercises" during the winter months.

Recreation and social life in the hall was busy and varied. Formal dances were held in the vallroom each winter and spring. Informal "hour dances" were held nearly once a week. Generally there was some sort of music at each dinner, such as carols during the Christmas season, and faculty members were often honored at guest dinners and teas.

Traditional parties of the era included Christmas party, Senior Dinner, May Morning Breakfast, birthday dinners and informal pajama parties.

The meal ritual was an important aspect of the social scene. Breakfast and lunch were served cafeteria style. But each evening for dinner, in an atmosphere of white tablecloths, fine china and silver, serving boys in white coats and black ties, and well-dressed women residents, the following scene unfolded:

Everyone remains standing until the Social Director and her party have proceeded into the dining room and have been seated. Every table is presided over by a hostess - one of the girls - but the rest may sit wherever they please. A table may adjourn as quickly as possible after the exodus of the Director's party, but those who love to linger over dessert usually have a short impromptu popular piano concert by one of the girls.

## WOMEN'S RESIDENCE HALLS 1939 - 1950

In 1938, Julia L. Love and Northeast halls were added to Raymond Hall. These two new buildings were opened to students in 1939 and had a combined capacity of 370 women. Love Hall included a study room and an additional recreation room in its basement; Northeast Hall was unique with its additional six student rooms, lounge, and an isolation unit or infirmary, all located on the ground floor. The formal dedication of Love Hall took place on November 5, 1939.

The decade of the forties brought few changes to Women's Residence Halls (WRH). Traditions were upheld and the buildings were virtually unchanged. Women were governed by the same rules, with one notable exception. In 1941, a new rule was added: "Effective September, 1941, freshmen women will be required to live in the University residence halls an entire academic year. Exception such as living at home and others will be made with the Dean of Women." This has, of course, been expanded to include men, but is one of the few rules that survives today from the decade of the forties.

## WOMEN'S RESIDENCE HALLS 1950 - 1970

The fifties and sixties show both similarity and change from previous decades. Government changed, due to the addition of more buildings. A program of dorm counselors, similar to FINKs, was added. The Raymond Rec room had acquired a TV and a record player; men were permitted there from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. every evening. Men were also permitted in the Love rec room, but only on Saturday night. By this time, also, the Love basement study room had acquired its nickname, the "Morgue".

Two special-use rooms were available during this time. The formal closet, 201A Raymond, was open Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. Girls could store formal gowns here, instead of bothering with them in their own closets. 331A Raymond was a sewing room, with an electric sewing machine and a list of rules for its use on the inside of the door. Bobbins, for those who did not have their own could be rented from the desk for 15¢.

The following excerpt from the 1956-57 Dorm Daze sums up the rules and etiquette of the residence halls during this period:

## YOU and YOUR

### SCHOLARSHIP -

You have already heard about the morgue as a place of deep concentration for studying, but here at the dorm you'll find various ways to help you maintain high scholarship. Monday through Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 10:30 you'll find regular study hours. At this time your radio is turned down, your room is quiet and, rather than visit all your friends, you remain in your room to complete your own studying. Only two girls should be in each room during study hours. Phone calls at such times should disturb only the girl receiving the call; never page a girl for a call.

You will be rewarded if your hard work and successful study habits have earned for you high grades. All honor students are introduced at the Residence Halls Recognition Party each spring. To the freshman with the highest average goes the traveling scholarship cup.

Perhaps you would like to peek at the system of grading used by the University of Nebraska:

9 - 95 to 99	5 - 75 to 79
8 - 90 to 94	4 - 70 to 74
7 - 85 to 89	3 - 65 to 69
6 - 80 to 84	2 - 60 to 64
1 - failure	

You have four wonderful years ahead of you. Begin now, as a freshman, to lay a strong scholastic foundation for your college years.



## CAMPUS

### ACTIVITIES:

In cooperation with the other houses on campus, the dorm girls participate in various campus activities. All of you are urged to take an active part in the hall and campus activities. Plan to spend most of your week-ends at school and enjoy the fun. Activities are a good cure for that first siege of homesickness and the finest friend-making device at Nebraska.

At Homecoming, the big fall event, you'll find yourself working diligently on the decoration for the front of the building. In this way, you'll be joining in the jubilant spirit of the Homecoming week end.

Maybe you're not an opera star but, if you like to sing, you'll want to try out for the Ivy Day chorus. Each spring on this traditional day, a group of singers from the dorm participates in the competitive Ivy Day Sing.

If your talent happens to be planning, directing, acting, singing, constructing properties, decorating, or most anything else, then you'll be sure to be part of the Coed Follies or Penny Carnival crews. Each spring a skit is written to present for Coed Follies and an original booth is constructed for Penny Carnival. These are more opportunities for you to contribute your original ideas. No matter what your talents are, you'll find a place to use them.

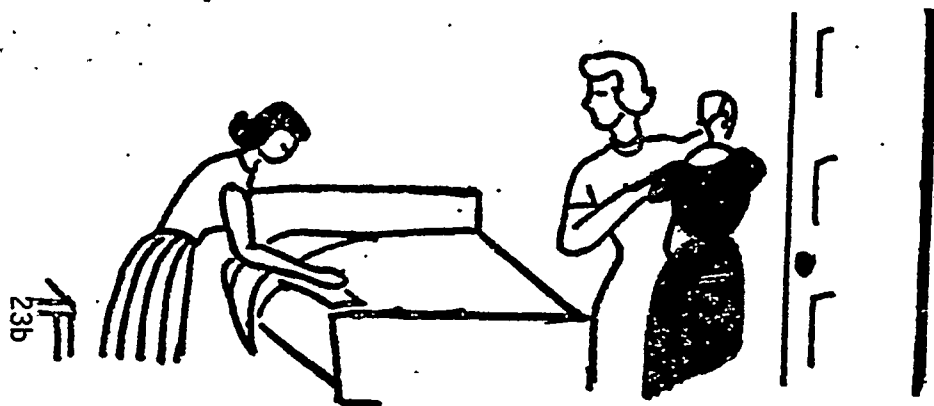


### In the Bathroom

1. No showers after lights-out time.
2. Always leave the bathroom neat and tidy.

### In the Halls

1. Clogs are used for swimming, not slippers.
2. If you spill popcorn, candy, etc. in the halls, clean the floor at once.
3. Be properly clad in the corridors during the day to avoid embarrassment.



### As a Roommate

Being a good roommate is one secret to happy dormitory life. A few suggestions may help you. Make your bed as soon as you get up. Hang your clothes neatly where they belong. Keep your half of the room tidy. Never borrow; it becomes a bad habit. Be quiet when your roommate wants to study or sleep. This applies to the use of your radio; never play it so that it can be heard out of your room. Always turn it off at lights-out time. Play it very softly in the morning when others may be sleeping. Locking your door when you leave your room is a good habit to acquire. Always remember the room is only half yours.

PRACTICE THE GOLDEN RULE AND YOU WILL BE A TOP-NOTCH ROOMMATE, A SUPER DORM GIRL.

## DORM

### STANDARDS

It is expected that each member of the dorm family will at all times keep standards set for university women. You know that at home you are definitely on your toes about your own social conduct. Don't become lax in your standards just because you are going to be living with people who know nothing about you. This is the time to prove how high your standards are.

Respect for "borrowed" property is essential. Even though you may not be using the equipment next year, someone else will be, and that someone will want it in the same good condition in which you found it.

As for smoking, don't feel you need to do it in order to fit into the group. If you're ashamed to do it at home, why start here? If you do smoke, follow the rules. It is not permitted in classes and dining rooms.

A coed never has to drink. If he is worth dating, that dream man will respect your decision if you choose to leave liquor alone. Besides, there is no hangover with a coke.

Maybe all the world was a stage in the days of Shakespeare but it is different today when it comes to love. Display of affection is fine in its place, but NOT on the dormitory doorstep, sofa, or sidewalks. Even if you are in love, don't be blissfully ignorant of the show you are staging. A good night kiss is a private affair, not a display for the other dorm residents and the neighbors.

## FASHION

PLUS - -

Your clothes are important, but only if, once you have them, you can forget yourself and be comfortable. An outfit is never in good taste if you feel self-conscious in it.



A good dark dress is a much used basis for the coming night life, while a suit and hat will be just the thing for church and afternoon teas. Of course, you'll want to have a formal dress, either in the ballerina or ever popular floor length. Just as everything has its place, so the date dress and 'heels' stick to week-ends and special occasions, while the brisk two piecer and anklets take over in the classroom. Skirts and sweaters are still the standbys for school days. You can touch the weather, but it won't be able to touch you if you come equipped with a raincoat.

Wearing jeans and shorts downtown, in the dorm lobby, in Raymond parlors, in the dining hall, on campus or to football and basketball games just is not done at Nebraska. Tennis matches, picnics and special occasions are exceptions, and jeans maybe worn to dorm breakfasts and lunches on Saturdays only.

To feel your best, you must look your best. Have a periodic interview with yourself. Check run-down heels, sew on the loose buttons and snags, and send clothes to the cleaners. Neatness is essential to good grooming.

## DORM

HOURS - -



A.W.S. stands for Associated Women Students. This is a governing group which makes and enforces the rules and regulations by which you'll live. You may want to know the closing hours for first-semester freshmen.

### Closing Hours

Monday through Thursday	9:00 p.m.
Friday: all students	12:30 p.m.
Saturday: all students	1:00 a.m.
Sunday	11:00 p.m.

### Study Hours

Sunday through Thursday	7:00 - 10:30 p.m.
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### Meal Hours

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Monday to Friday	7:00-8:15	11:30-12:30	6:30
Saturday	7:30-8:15	11:30-12:15	6:00
Sunday	8:30-9:00		1:00

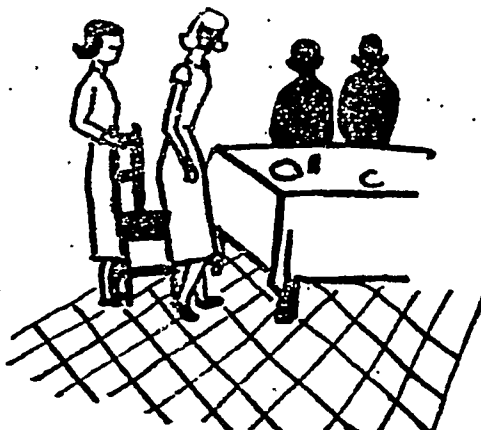
If you expect to be late for lunch or dinner, get special permission in advance from Miss Meierhenry. Sorry, if you are later than 6:15, you cannot be served. If a large number of girls must eat early due to a concert or symphony, they must make arrangements with Miss Meierhenry several days in advance.

The AWS Board will visit the dorm early in the year and give each girl a copy of the campus rules and regulations. Then you will understand better how and when to sign out, how to obtain permission to go home, and so forth.

## DORM

### CO-EDUQUETTE - -

Here are a few tips about the proper way to do things at the dorm.



### In the Dining Room

1. Make the dinner hour a leisurely and relaxing time. Proceed to the dining room without pushing and crowding.
2. Wait your turn in the cafeteria line.
3. When going to and from the table, keep to the main aisle.
4. Always use your best table manners.
5. To be chosen as a hostess and asked to sit at the head of a table is an honor and a privilege. When your turn comes, give your best to it.
6. Loud talking and laughing at the table should be avoided as well as calling across to students at other tables.
7. Bobby pins and curlers are never worn in the dining room.
8. Jeans and slacks are worn only at Saturday breakfast and lunch. Shorts are never worn.
9. Dinner on Sunday is a dress-up occasion.
10. If you must leave the dining room early, excuse yourself to the head resident.
11. Flirting with the bus boys in the dining room is never in good taste and should not be done.

This is the grace you'll sing each night before dinner.

Almighty Father, hear our prayer,  
And bless all souls that wait before Thee.

-Amen

### In Your Room

1. Calling out the dorm windows gives a bad impression to passersby. Your messages can be conveyed in a much more dignified way.
2. Respect your roommate's property.
3. Always leave your room prepared for the weekly cleaning. Everything up off the floor--cleaning day--and that does mean your shoes.
4. Practice fire prevention. Be sure to put your cigarettes out before you leave your room.
5. Keep your radio turned down so that it can be heard only in your room.
6. Wet clothes are never hung on the furniture or in the windows.

### In the Phone Booths

1. Limit phone calls to five minutes during the day and three minutes at night. Since there are fifteen telephone lines for the use of 400 people, it is necessary to be guided accordingly.
2. Take pencil and paper to phone booth; don't write on the walls.
3. Switchboard operators are busy; don't annoy them about calls you had while you were out.
4. All long distance telephone calls must be placed from the pay phones in the halls. The switchboard cannot handle them.

### In the Laundry

1. Clean the washing machine before you leave.
2. Take down your clothes as soon as they are completely dry.
3. Always be certain the clothes you hang in the laundry are marked.
4. If you wish to use a rack that is filled with someone's dry clothes, take them down and fold them neatly together. The trite, but true, golden rule always pays.



Piper Hall was built in 1956 and dedicated June 9, 1957, with Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin and Comptroller John K. Selleck presiding. Constructed at twice the cost of Raymond Hall in 1932, \$550,000, it was paid out of revenues, not tax funds. It was opened for occupancy for the summer school session of 1957, since it was the only air-conditioned residence hall at that time.

Sometime during the fifties a buzzer system was installed. For those of you who did not live in the halls during this time, this is how the system worked. If your last name came before your roommate's last name alphabetically, one buzz meant you had a phone call at the desk and three buzzes told you that there was a visitor waiting. For the roommate, two and four buzzes signified the same. If no one was home, an indicator would pop up on the buzzer, to show that there was a message at the desk.

With the opening of Cather and Pound in 1963, dining facilities were moved to the food service building. But even modern facilities wouldn't solve some problems:

"Cutting in line or saving places is not permitted for any reason. Members of the hall government and all staff members reserve the right to ask those who violate this regulation to go to the end of the line. Refusal to comply with the request or continual violation will result in the offender being presented before the R.D."

This appeared in 1969. In addition, a cafeteria dress code required a nice attire for the evening meal, with standards set by the hall officers and approved by the residents.

1970-1982

In 1970, a major change took place at the Women's Residence Halls: for the first time two of the halls, Heppner and Love, housed at least one floor of men residents. In 1976, men lived in Raymond Hall for the first time. I had the privilege of being one of those 25 men.

The era of the 70's was a decade of change. The Centennial Education Program precipitated the movement of men into the residence hall. In 1971, International House became a reality. The most apparent change occurred at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 21, 1973, when the Women's Residence Halls were renamed as the John G. Neihardt Residential Center. The reason for the change was noted in the dedication program:

"The renaming of Women's Residence Halls to the John G. Neihardt Residential Center comes as a result of original action by the residents of the hall which was adopted by the Board of Regents. Residents felt it was no longer appropriate to call these halls Women's Residence Halls because two special programs which include men are housed there."

Another change was the liberalization of visitation hours which took place in 1974. Members of the opposite sex could visit in the rooms during a six-hour period chosen from between 12:00 noon and 12:30 a.m. Doors were, of course, to be fully open, to provide an unobstructed view of the room whenever guests were present. Later the policy was modified to allow the present fourteen hours of visitation between 10 a.m. and 2 a.m. The "open door" policy was also revoked.

Neihardt hall government evolved as well in the 1970's. Five officers, upon election, decide between themselves who among them will fill the offices of president, vice-president, secretary-treasurer, social chairman, and Residence Hall Association representative. These officers preside over the Neihardt Council, consisting of representatives from each floor, elected in the fall. The responsibilities of the Council include dispersal of floor funds, student advocacy, and social event organization.

In the late 70's and early 80's, hall-wide social events may not have been as numerous as in earlier years, but residents were still active. Traditional parties were held at Christmas and Halloween, in addition to dances held in the cafeteria, and of course the Fool's Festival, a small carnival held every spring in the Neihardt courtyard.

In 1982, student life and student's attitudes have changed considerably from 1932. However, college is still a good place to meet new friends, have new experiences, and to prepare for life; and Neihardt is part of this experience. Past, present, and future residents of Neihardt Hall share a very special heritage. It is a heritage worth preserving in the years to come.

## CENTENNIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Centennial Education Program (CEP) was begun as an experiment to upgrade the environment in residence halls, both socially and intellectually. Professor Robert Knoll and students David McKibbin and Curt Donaldson, introduced the idea, to provide the advantages of a small residential college with ready access to the intellectual facilities and social life of a large university. The idea was something new to American public universities. As stated in the original objectives:

The CEP aims to produce a student who is sharply aware of himself, his society, and his world; one who is able and eager to continue both his liberal and his vocational education independently.

As originally conceived, the program involved little teaching by lecture, with emphasis on seminars and directed individual research. It was not meant to be an honors program, but rather to represent a cross-section of the student body, and to include students randomly selected from applicants to the program. Students were referred to as Centennial Scholars and professors known as Centennial Fellows.

A Centennial Scholar's program of study consisted of three parts, or divisions of time. The Scholar spent one-third of his time on a custom-tailored course in which he would learn to define contemporary and permanent problems. Specific subject matter was determined by the current interests of the scholar with the help of his advisor; this division was worth six credit hours.

A second part of the scholar's study was devoted to language, either verbal (modern languages) or mathematical. The third part was spent in the university at large.

Originally, participants in the program were to be housed in Seaton Hall and Benton Hall. Both of these buildings were also to contain classrooms, conference rooms, commons areas, and a small library. Eventually Heppner and Love Halls came to house the program, and the first classes met in the fall of 1970.

In addition to the regular Fellows, CEP brought in a number of guest Fellows with specialties in fields ranging from sculpture to mime. Margaret Mead, the famous anthropologist, was a visitor in the early seventies. As a special project, the Scholars also built a harpsichord for the Music department.

In its tenth year, Centennial changed to a more structured system. The six hour core course was replaced by 18 vaguely titled three-hour courses. This was, in my opinion, the beginning of the end for the program. In 1981, the Board of Regents voted to discontinue funding for the program and the last class was held in the spring semester of 1981.

With the loss of the Centennial Program the Neihardt Center lost a part of its personality. To anyone who did not live in Neihardt, CEP students seemed strange, different than most. These differences were a result of fresh, innovative thought, and from study that explored the boundaries of life. I salute the people of Centennial.

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

International House, based in Piper Hall, is a community of American and foreign students who live together and share ideas. It is composed of one floor of men and one floor of women, on which each foreign student shares a room with an American. Other members of the community do not live with these students, but participate in activities.

Established in 1971, the program faced an initial shortage of American men and foreign women and was opened with only 60 students. Organization has continued as a problem for I-House. Housing staff united more quickly and were more organized than the residents' government; consequently, the staff fell into a pattern of planning activities in lieu of the government.

Despite these problems I-House is an active community, with great interest among its participants. It is appropriate that I-House should be located in Piper Hall, since Miss Piper founded the first International House over thirty years ago.

## MODERN LANGUAGES FLOOR

The Modern Languages Floor (MLF) was established jointly by the Department of Modern Languages and Literature and the Housing Office as a place where students could practice language and encounter a broad spectrum of foreign languages in a non-classroom setting. A live-in advisor helps to coordinate the floor and organize activities such as cultural programs and special dinners. Students can, within certain limits, gain college credit for living on and participating in the floor.

The MLF Program was begun in the fall of 1978, but organization of the Program had not been accomplished without controversy. In March 1978 the hall government was approached by the Department of Modern Languages and the Housing Department with a tentative proposal for the language floor to be located somewhere in the Neihardt Center. The government indicated interest, but assumed that they would be consulted before a final decision was reached. Much to the surprise of floor residents, however, Raymond Two was designated as the MLF, and on the day before housing contracts were issued for the fall, floor members were informed that they would need to find other rooms for the following year. Needless to say, many of the residents were upset, but the controversy blew over and the transition was made without excessive discomfort.

Although initial interest in the program was not great, MLF has, in the four years of its existence, grown to fill Raymond Two, and had established itself as a permanent part of the Neihardt environment.

## GHOST STORIES

No history of Neihardt Hall would be complete without mentioning the ghosts who "live" there. Any building which has stood as long and housed as many people is bound to pick up one or two stories, and Niehardt Hall is no different.

The first story is fairly simple. Supposedly, a ghost stalks the courtyard at night (presumably when it is cloudy, and no moon or stars are visible). The figure, clothes in illumination, appears to walk across the courtyard at a lower level than the present surface. Thus, the legs are not visible below the knee. It is not known exactly what hour of the day the ghost makes its appearance; there have been few sightings. If anyone sees anything, let me know.

The second story involves some students from Centennial College. Early in the history of the College, these students decided to conduct a seance. Locating themselves in an isolated corner of the building, they proceeded with the ceremony. Soon, much to their surprise, a rather active poltergeist joined them, moving furniture, throwing objects from the walls and generally making a mess. Obviously, the ghost had not wanted to be disturbed. Anyone for a seance?

The third story is the most well known. During the 1940's, a flu or pneumonia epidemic was occurring on campus. Since student health facilities were almost non-existent at that time, students were often treated in their rooms. One such young lady, who lived in Women's Residence Halls, was severely ill from the disease. Suffering from a very high fever, she was often in a delirium. During these times, she was preoccupied with the position of the drapes in her room, requesting that they be open, then minutes later asking to shut them. She later died from the illness in the room.

Years later, another student, living in the same room and not knowing about the death, had an "interesting" experience. Several different times she had opened her drapes, and then left the room. Upon returning, the drapes would be closed. Since she didn't have a roommate, this puzzled her as to how they had changed position. Then one day, just as she was leaving the room, the closed curtains snapped open by themselves, right in front of her. Not waiting to see more, she ran down to the residence director, who, after calming the girl, told her the story about the room.



The location of the actual room where this occurred is disputed. However, most of my sources say it is the lounge in Raymond 3 (room 313). So far no one has noticed any strange occurrences there, but you never know when something might happen, do you?

## Conclusion

This history is by no means complete, nor is it intended to be. Many other topics could still be discussed, and many sources of information have been left untapped. A thorough treatment of this subject would have taken much more time than I could have spent. However, while incomplete, the information provided is as accurate as I could make it.

I hope you have enjoyed reading this history, and have gained a sense of the past. I hope too that the University, in its Infinite Wisdom, will see fit to maintain Neihardt Hall for another fifty years, and give another generation of students the chance to live in an atmosphere of style, old-fashioned comfort, and lasting friendship.

## Bibliography

Practically all of the information contained in this work was obtained from the University of Nebraska Archives in Love Library.

Most of the biographical information was found in the biography files. Many of the old bulletins and booklets can be found in the following file boxes:

29/8/0

29/8/1

38/6/11

48/3/0

Some information and lots of old photographs can be found in the photo files.

Finally, several quotes were obtained from microfilm copies of the Daily Nebraskan, and were noted in the text.

If you wish to find any of this information, please ask the librarians in the Archive area for assistance.